



Ministry
of Defence

Defence Business Services

Secretariat
Room 6229
Tomlinson House
Norcross
Thornton-Cleveleys
FY5 3WP

Ref: FOI2023/13841

Email: DBSRES-Secretariat@mod.gov.uk

[REDACTED]

7 December 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 14 November 2023 to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) requesting the following information:

"With respect to the Nuclear Test Medal, please can you let me know the number of numbers and nationalities of the foreign nationals who have received the medal?"

Under the eligibility criteria this is listed as category (3):

"(3) Foreign nationals who served at the locations where the UK atmospheric nuclear tests were conducted, including the preparatory and clear-up phases, between 1952 and 1967."

In addition, please can you let me know:

A) the numbers and nationalities of of the civilian foreign nationals who were employed during operation Grapple

B) if any outreach has been conducted to inform the Kiribati community that this medal has been launched

C) what accessibility measures have been taken into consideration to facilitate applications for the nuclear test medal from the Kiribati community"

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence and I can confirm that some of the information in scope of your request is held.

As of 21 November 2023, the Ministry of Defence Medal Office (MODMO) had dispatched 39 Nuclear Test Medals to Commonwealth Forces. All 39 individuals were New Zealand nationals.

No information is held in answer to parts A-C of your request.

Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) you may be interested to know that in addition to the 39 Nuclear Test Medals dispatched, as of 21 November 2023 the MODMO had received a further 152 applications for the medal from Commonwealth Forces. Of these, 8 cases had been approved with the medal still to be dispatched and 144 applications were still awaiting verification.

The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) may hold information to answer parts B and C of your request. In order to make a request for information you may wish to direct this part of your request to the FCDO at the address details below.

Information Rights Unit
Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office
Room WG.75
King Charles Street
London
SW1A 2AH
United Kingdom

Email: information.rights@fcdo.gov.uk

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.

Defence Business Services (Secretariat)